President’s Message

Strength in Unity

Greetings to all and a Happy and Prosperous Year of the Monkey! It is a great honor to be elected as your new President of the Asian Coalition. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge two special people that believed in me to lead this association. Retired Vice-Provost Frances Lee selected me to be part of the City College faculty, and former Dean Frank Chong nominated me to serve as an officer. I could not refuse a challenge. I am committed to be an active participant in bringing new vision to this organization.

Asian Coalition is at a turning point. We have become advocates to our Asian Pacific American students. As mentors, we empower our members, faculty and classified staff, to develop their professional growth. We have become strategists to influence the decision makers of the shared governance and the college community.

During my term as the president, I will dedicate myself to serve all of the members. I ask that we work together to grow stronger in providing quality education for our students, job opportunities and appointments for our Asian American colleagues, and solid funding for the scholarships.

I will continue our tradition of promoting cultural activities, nurturing student participation in the association, and expanding our community outreach and support. I look forward to working closer with each and every one of you in the near future. As an organization, we are committed to your success.

By cooperating together, we can accomplish great things. There is a Chinese children’s song that goes like this: “A single bamboo can easily bend. Many bamboos bundle together would be hard to break.” Remember, in unity, there is strength.

Board President Lawrence Wong Sworn in by Mayor Newsom

In a City Hall Ceremony on February 18, 2004 Trustee Lawrence Wong was sworn in as President of the Board by Mayor Gavin Newsom. In attendance were many dignitaries, members of the community and many City College classified staff, faculty members and administrators. Milton Marks was sworn in as Vice President.

Trustee Wong was elected to the Board in 1994, and also served as President in 1996 and 1999. An active member of the Asian Coalition, Trustee Wong has worked hard as an advocate for City College and its varied educational programs, and for diversifying the faculty and classified staff.

Congratulations, Trustee Wong!
RECOMMENDATION FOR A RETENTION PROGRAM FOR ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN STUDENTS AT CITY COLLEGE (Draft)

Background:

Forty percent of the students on academic probation at City College of San Francisco are Asian Pacific Islander students. That startling statistic prompted students, counselors, faculty, administrators, and staff at the College to meet as the Asian Pacific American Student Success Workgroup to draft a proposal for an APA retention program. During the spring and fall semesters of 2003, the Workgroup met monthly, with each meeting dedicated to different student nationality groups. The Workgroup spoke with focus groups of Burmese, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Indonesian, Pacific Islander, and Vietnamese students for the purpose of gathering information about their experiences at the College and to determine how the District could help them achieve academic success. Approximately 75 students attended the six sessions that were held.

Out of these monthly sessions, the Workgroup concluded that while academic success is, in large part, a function of the students taking responsibility for obtaining help when needed, such as attending Orientation sessions, seeking guidance from counselors, and contacting faculty for help with coursework, City College needed to act quickly on several fronts to provide APA students with academic support.

1) Most of the student groups felt that City College desperately needed additional bilingual and bicultural counselors, faculty, and tutors so that material being discussed could be effectively communicated to students encountering academic problems.

2) Many APA students need help with the English language, but felt that ESL instructors, and tutors needed to spend more time to help individual students and to tell students specifically what was wrong with their writing.

3) Many students did not know about services that were available at City College, and even for those who did know about some of them, they were very confused regarding where services were available, whether or not they would qualify, such as for EOPS counseling, and with whom they should be speaking for clear, direct answers to their questions.

4) Students who attended Orientation workshops felt that often the sessions included so many students that individuals felt shy about asking questions, and that the information, while helpful, was not presented in an interesting way, or was overwhelming in content and sometimes confusing.

5) Many students felt that they had to wait a long time before getting an appointment with a counselor.

6) Some students, such as the Pacific Islanders, felt marginalized at City College because of the lack of courses and programs devoted to their ancestral homelands, culture, and politics.

7) Some students felt that they were encountering parental pressures to pursue certain careers which were not suited to their abilities or which the students had no desire to pursue.
Recommendation for a Retention Program:

While City College has programs such as the Latino Services Network, Puente, Math Bridge, and the African American Scholastic Program which are respectively intended to provide academic and student support service primarily to Latino and African American students, there is no program devoted to the retention of APA students in the District. With a total of approximately 20,816 APA credit students out of a total of 51,393 credit students during the 2002-2003 academic year, City College cannot afford to neglect the academic needs of these students. Therefore, the Workgroup recommends that City College start an Asian Pacific American Student Success Program [APASSP] by doing the following:

- Provide a place for APASSP on the Ocean Campus open to all students but focused on providing an array of services, including orientation, counseling, mentoring, transfer information, and tutoring to APA students.
- Hire an APASSP Director who should minimally have bicultural experiences and preferably speak an Asian Pacific language, to oversee the Program and services; the Director should have proper clerical support.
- Hire at least eight new bilingual or bicultural counselors of diverse and representative APA backgrounds who can provide academic, personal, and career counseling, and orientation at APASSP, but who will be tasked specifically to provide mandatory and extensive guidance to students on academic probation. These counselors should report directly to the APASSP Director.
- Offer orientation sessions to small groups of students at which successful CCSF graduates are invited to speak.
- Hire the equivalent of 20 new full-time bilingual or bicultural tutors, each of whom can work with students for extended periods of time on English language skills at APASSP.
- Offer English 94, 96, and 1A courses that focus on common problems which APA students have in speaking, writing, and comprehension, and offer literature relevant to the APA experience; these courses should be taught by instructors who are sensitive to APA language learners and are willing to offer extended office hours and intensive help to students experiencing difficulty; each section of the courses should have a bilingual or bicultural tutor who attends all of the classes and is available to help students out of class.
- Start a mentorship program which matches students with mentors from the business and professional community who can give students support and practical information.
- Offer to parents of APA students, sessions where they can learn about the College, APASSP services, college majors, and career paths.
- Request that City College’s Research and Planning Department conduct research periodically so that APASSP can assess the effectiveness of its programs and services.
- Include in the Concert-Lecture Series and Flex Day programs, sessions on the a) history, culture, and politics of the Pacific Islands and Asian countries, b) the needs of APA communities and students, and c) Asian Heritage activities.
- Offer courses, such as through the Asian American Studies Department, relevant to Pacific Islanders in the United States.

Establish a listserv of APA students each semester for more efficient outreach and dissemination of college information, especially regarding programs, services, and activities relevant to this student population.

APASSP should be started, and an APASSP Director hired, by the Spring semester, 2005.

Contact Person: Laurie Wu McClain
Chair, APA Student Success Workgroup
Ext. 3283, lmcclain@ccsf.edu
Resolution Regarding the Retention Proposal Developed by the Asian Pacific Islander Student Success Workgroup

Board Resolution:
Acknowledging and Commending the Asian Pacific American Student Success (APASS) Workgroup.
(Resolution No. 040224-S7)

“RECOMMENDATION:
RESOLVED: that the Vice Chancellor of Student Development and the Chancellor work together to bring the Retention Proposal developed by the Asian Pacific Islander Student Success (APASS) Workgroup forward to the attention of various shared governance committees (Student Success and Planning and Budgeting Council) across the District for review and consideration; …”

The complete resolution as well as the “Recommendation for a Retention Program for Asian Pacific American Students at City College” (Draft) are included this Newsletter. Due to the efforts of the Asian Coalition, City College faculty, staff and administrators, students, members of the external community, and Laurie Wu McClain, Chair of the APA Student Success Workgroup the needs of this student population are now being recognized.

Dr. John Wilde Publishes The Disability Journey

Dr. John Wilde, Asian Coalition member and this year’s Raffle Co-Chair, has just published a book entitled, The Disability Journey: A Bridge from Awareness to Action.
Excerpts from the Publisher’s press release: “Dr. Wilde is a professor and counselor at City College of San Francisco where he teaches a course titled Perspectives on Disability Rights. He holds a Ph.D. in Education, with an emphasis in rehabilitation, from Southern Illinois University, and has written two textbooks on disability rights. The author is a member of the National Rehabilitation Association, Phi Delta Kappa and serves on the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Independent Living Resource Center.
In a 30 year career as professor, counselor, and as a teacher of adults and children with disabilities in elementary and high schools, and as a disability rights consultant to businesses and policy-making arenas of government, the author has met a widely diverse group of people with special needs. The Disability Journey reveals the vastness of these profound experiences.
Having studied at the Beijing Language and Cultural University, Dr. Wilde also wrote American Culture: A Coursebook (World Affairs Press, 2000), a popular college textbook used throughout China by students wanting an in-depth understanding of American culture. Later, his combined knowledge of disability rights and Chinese culture caused the United Nations to tap his expertise; in 2001, he completed an extensive report titled A Comparative Study of Disability Laws in China and the USA in which he offers suggestions on how to develop rights that are more equitable for people with disabilities.”
This winter I had an opportunity to travel to Iran and visit a number of cities, including Isfahan, Shiraz, Yazd and Kerman. My visit to Iran coincided with the devastating earthquake in the City of Bam. I was in Yazd with Darius, an old friend from college, and we were planning to travel the next day to Bam to see the ancient city and its famous fortress. Early that morning (Friday, December 26, 2003), as I was in my hotel room preparing for the drive to Bam, I heard a shocking report on the television: a magnitude 6.6 earthquake had just struck the heart of Bam. Thousands had been killed and 70 percent of Arg-e Bam, the 2200-year-old fortress, which had survived Mongol and Afghan invasions, had been destroyed in only one minute. Eventually, the death toll would rise to more than 41,000.

Our original plan was to travel to Bam on Christmas Day and spend the night in the city. However, after a long drive from Isfahan our car broke down in Yazd and our trip was delayed by one fateful day. If not for an overheated engine, we most likely would have passed our last night in Bam.

The earthquake didn't deter us from continuing our journey. We decided to continue toward Kerman (the provincial capital, just 200 km. north of Bam) and eventually from there take the congested road to Bam. Late in the evening, we arrived at the Pars Hotel in Kerman and found out how bad the situation really was. Hundreds of Iranian and foreign aid workers and journalists were packed into the hotel lobby, ready to head to Bam. Among them were Russians with rescue dogs, French physicians from Doctors Without Borders, and Japanese specialists in earthquake recovery.

When we approached the reception desk and asked for a room with hesitation, the first question that the receptionist asked was, "Are you journalists or aid workers?"  "Neither," we replied. She cut me off and said: "Sorry there is no room. Don't you see what is going on here?"  As we made our way out of the hotel, a doorman ran after us to say that the receptionist wanted to talk to us. A few Russian rescue workers had just left for Bam and their room was now vacant.

The next morning, the whole population of Kerman seemed to be mobilizing to find a way to help the survivors of the earthquake. We decided to continue our journey toward Bam (if we could get there) to see if we could be of any help. From Kerman to Bam, cars lined the highway bumper-to-bumper. Hundreds of ambulances made their way back and forth between the two cities. We could see families leaving Bam for Kerman with the dead bodies of their loved ones tied to the roof of their cars.

Travels in Iran, continued on next page....
When we reached Yaft Abad (a small town about half way between Kerman and Bam) the news was reporting that the death toll might have reached 30,000. We began to realize the level of devastation. We knew that this earthquake was beyond anything we had imagined and so we turned back for Kerman so that the aid workers, journalists, and people who had relatives in Bam could have the road to themselves.

Later I found out that, like almost everything else in Bam, all the libraries in the city (including the public and university libraries) had been left in ruins. The loss of such profound cultural heritage only added to the grief of the nation.

A Brief History of Bam Citadel (Arg-e Bam)

Located in southeastern of Iran (200 kilometers south of Kerman and 1000 kilometers south of Tehran), Bam was an intact 2000-year-old city built entirely of sun-dried mud bricks. The breathtaking site included a fortress, towers, a bazaar, caravanserais, and hundreds of houses. Although the city was over 2000 years old, most of what remained before the December 2003 earthquake dated from the era of the Safavid Dynasty (1502-1722). The ancient city of Bam was invaded numerous times by the Mongols, Afghans and bandits from the province of Shiraz. Marco Polo passed through Bam on his historic journey. Until the 19th century, the old city was inhabited by nearly 10,000 people. Loss of trade forced the population to abandon the old city, but they soon built another bigger city next to it. The site was used as an army barracks until the 1930s, and then lay deserted until the 1950s when the government undertook a major restoration.

Arg-e-Bam (the Bam Citadel) was one of the best-preserved medieval cities in Iran and was designated as a world heritage site by UNESCO.

The Italian filmmaker Valerio Zurlini used the Citadel in 1976 to make his three hours masterpiece The Desert of the Tartars, starring Jacques Perrin and produced by Iranian film director, Bahman Farman Ara. This movie is an adaptation of an Italian novel of the same name by Dino Buzzati. The movie is available in video stores throughout the United States.
Scholarships Available from Asian Coalition, Due Mar. 12, 2004!

Asian Coalition of City College of San Francisco will be awarding scholarships to deserving students of Asian and Asian Pacific Islander ancestry. Students must be currently enrolled in either credit or non-credit courses at any of the campuses of City College of San Francisco. This is the twenty-first year of the AC scholarship program and there will be six awards in the amount of $400 each in addition to other donor scholarships.

The purpose of the scholarship is to acknowledge the struggles and sacrifices Asian and Asian Pacific Islander students encounter in pursuing their educational goals and to provide encouragement for their endeavors. Selection criteria include financial need, academic progress, classroom participation, school/community service, potential leadership skills, and evaluations (from teachers or counselors).

Interested students must complete the AC Scholarship Application and Teacher Evaluation available on this website and return to Anna Q. Wong, Scholarship Committee Co-chairperson, c/o Chinatown North Beach Campus. Both forms must be submitted in triplicate and must be received by Friday, March 12, 2004. The awards will be presented at the Asian Coalition Dinner that will be held in late spring.

For further information, please contact Mabel Lee Michelucci at 239-3280.

Recommendation form and Teacher Evaluation are in this newsletter!!!

Editor’s Note:
There are two new scholarships available this year. One in the amount of $400 has been donated by Wing Tsao in memory of his mother. The other also in the amount of $400 has been donated by Mark Fan in memory of his fa-

Join the Asian Coalition!
Membership form is in this newsletter.
Beautiful Ladies: Vintage Shanghai Deco Posters
January 30—May 15, 2004

“The Chinese Culture Center is pleased to present the first exhibition of vintage Shanghai posters in North America. These relics of Shanghai’s Western influenced glamour period enjoyed great popularity, which can be directly related to the birth of capitalism and early industrialism in China. Rapid development of the Chinese economy during the early decades of the 20th century made this period the golden age of Chinese poster art.” —from the exhibition statement by Wylie Wong, CCC Gallery Guest Curator.

Chinese Culture Center, 750 Kearny St., 3rd Floor
(Kearny @ Washington) San Francisco, CA 94108
415-986-1822
Hours: Tuesday—Sunday (10 am—4 pm)

22nd San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival,

“Presented by the National Asian American Telecommunications Association (NAATA), the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival (SFIAAFF) is the largest annual exhibition event in North America dedicated to showcasing the best in Asian American and Asian cinema. Since 1982, the...

In Our Own Voice: The Making of a Korean Community
January 23 — November 28, 2004
Oakland Museum of California

From the exhibition statement:
“Nearly 60,000 Korean Americans live in the San Francisco Bay Area. In celebration of the 100th anniversary of Korean immigration to the United States, the Oakland Museum of California presents the exhibit In Our Own Voice: The Making of A Korean Community, a unique first-person exploration of the Korean American experience. The exhibit, created in collaboration with the East Bay Korean Centennial Committee, will be on display in the 20th-century section of the history main gallery from January 23 through November 28, 2004.”

22nd San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival,

“Presented by the National Asian American Telecommunications Association (NAATA), the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival (SFIAAFF) is the largest annual exhibition event in North America dedicated to showcasing the best in Asian American and Asian cinema. Since 1982, the...
NOMINATION FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE
To Recognize CCSF Asian Pacific Islander Classified & Faculty Members

I Nominate:

NAME:_________________________________________________________

POSITION:_____________________________________________________

CAMPUS:_______________________________________________________

PHONE:_________________________E-MAIL:__________________________

Write a brief description of the nominee’s specific areas of service (students, college district, and/or greater community), and why you think he/she should be considered:

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

Your Name (Nominator):____________________________________________

Position:__________________________________________________________

Campus: ___________________Phone:__________________________________

Return to:  Suzanne Lo, Rosenberg Library, R413 by March 29, 2004
MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name:________________________Campus:____________________

Department:____________________________________________________

District Mail Box:_________ E-Mail:____________________________

Position: ___Administrator ___Classified ___Faculty ___Student ___Other (i.e. Community)

Home Address:____________________________________________________

City, Zip:__________________________________________________________

Phone (home):____________________(work):_________________________

Please indicate your interests and elaborate:

Cultural Activities ________________________________________________

____________________________________

District Matters:____________________________________________________

____________________________________

Political Issues:____________________________________________________

____________________________________

Professional Workshops:_____________________________________________

____________________________________

Other:________________________________________________________________

____________________________________

How would you like to be involved with AC?

___Scholarship Committee ___Annual Dinner Committee
___Raffle Committee ___"Reception” for Students
___Organize or host a social ___AC Officer/Executive Board
___Other (please describe):

Please make checks payable to ASIAN COALITION: $10/individual or $15/couple per academic year. Send to:
Mark Fan, CCSF Rosenberg Library, 50 Phelan Ave., San Francisco, CA 94112 or interoffice mail to: Mark Fan, R413
Name______________________________________________________________

Last (print legibly) ___________________________ First __________________ Middle _______________________

Address_____________________________________________________________________________________

Number (print legibly) __________________ Street ____________________________________________ Apt. _______________________

City________________________________ Zip __________________ (area code) _______________________

Cell Phone________________________ E-mail Address____________________________

(area code) ________________

Student I.D. No.: ________________________________

Campus(es) Currently Enrolled: (1)____________________ (2)____________________

Class/Crse#________________ Teacher________________________________

Class/Crse#________________ Teacher________________________________

Class/Crse#________________ Teacher________________________________

Class/Crse#________________ Teacher________________________________

Class/Crse#________________ Teacher________________________________

If you are studying non-credit beginning levels of English i.e. ESL Lit, Levels 1, 2, 3, or 4, you may write your response to the following questions in your native language. All other students must write in English.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: What school or community activities, clubs, or organizations have you participated in within the last three years? (You may include activities in your home country.)

_________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________

continued on next page….  

City College of San Francisco

Application and teacher evaluation in triplicate)
FINANCIAL NEED: What will you use this $400 scholarship for?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
GOAL STATEMENT: What are your academic and career goals? What are your plans for future community involvement?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
Additional information may be attached on a separate sheet of paper.
I hereby state that the information on this application is correct.
Signature_________________________ Date________________________
Please return this application to: Anna Q. Wong
Chinatown/North Beach Campus
940 Filbert Street
San Francisco, CA 94133

PLEASE SUBMIT THIS APPLICATION AND TEACHER EVALUATION IN TRIPLICATE
MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 P.M., FRIDAY, March 12, 2004
SELECTED APPLICANTS WILL BE CONTACTED FOR AN INTERVIEW
Asian Coalition Scholarship Recommendation Form
Spring 2004

Dear Teacher/Counselor,

Your student, ____________________________ in ___________(course/no.), has applied for an Asian Coalition Scholarship. We would appreciate your assessment of this student in the following areas:

(weak)              (average)             (outstanding)
Attendance                                                     1             2             3             4             5
Academic Progress                                        1             2             3             4             5
Classroom Participation                                 1             2             3             4             5
Potential Leadership Skills                            1             2             3             4             5

Why do you feel this student is deserving of a scholarship award?
______________________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________

Other Comments:
______________________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________
Signature_____________________Campus/Mailbox#________________Date __________
Print Name____________________Dept./Title____________________Extension________

This evaluation must be received by 5:00 p.m., Friday, March 12, 2004 as the evaluation will be considered with the student's application in the screening process. Thank you for your assistance.

Mail to: Anna Q. Wong
Chinatown/North Beach Campus
940 Filbert Street
San Francisco, CA 94133